

Tanzania Day of Prayer Poem by Peace Club Member from Zanzibar

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STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

1. My sincere greetings
To you all
Assalam aleikum
Peace be on you.
2. Children and young people
We have met here today
Our aim is to join the struggle
To stop violence
3. We are really determined
To ensure fulfilment of all rights
Stop violating our rights
We tell you now
4. Defilement has persisted
Gang rape has increased
This is happening
In Zanzibar and Mainland (Tanzania)
5. We children are being bullied
Cruelly treated
Being harassed
Abused we are too
6. This is our cry
Fathers, teachers among them
Ooh! We have nowhere to go
A lot of excuses are given
7. That we are not responsive
And that we do not obey them
We are mischievous
The world distracts us
8. We are abused physically
Being beaten without mercy
Being pushed hard
And being shouted at.
9. Our bodies are affected
Injuries we get
Pain begets us
As we cry agonisingly
10. Also mentally
We lose our tender nature
It's beyond theories
Of psychology
11. We feel bad
The bad names we are called
They say it's just a joke
While it's disgracing
12. Abandonment of children
Threatens them
And isolation
Who is to be blamed?
13. We are infected with HIV
Pregnant we get
As laws are disobeyed
Otherwise we wouldn't be in this
situation

14. What is done on us is unfair
We children don't approve
We say no
Our voices are high
15. They should be listened to
We start with the government
Even other organisations
Including communities
16. Civil Society Organisations
The media
And also Ministry of Health
and Social Welfare
17. The judiciary and police
Shouldn't allow
Themselves to be among the culprits
18. Procedures should be followed
You shouldn't hide things
So that children can benefit
By observing the law
19. Religious leaders
You should be on the fore front
Abuses are rampant
We children suffer
20. Please take steps
So that ethics are followed
Use the Scriptures
The Qoran and the Bible
21. Violence should be stopped
Families should be involved
A network to be established
To protect rights
22. We need to fulfil them (rights)
You shouldn't go against them
Even the UN loves us
UNICEF cares
23. In order to comfort us
The society needs to move
Why are we maltreated
Who is to stop this?
24. Say you are all my children
Your child is my child
Protect them with all your might
So that they grow to be good citizens
25. We children are abused
We children are harassed
We children are affected
We should all join to stop that
26. When will this end
Suffering that can't be tolerated
We all condemn this
Hundred per cent
27. I have reached the end
And I hope
You'll work on this
Whole heartedly
28. LET'S WORK
TOGETHER TO STOP
VIOLENCE AGAINST
CHILDREN